It will be understood that the computing system described in the preceding paragraphs is illustrative only, and that an embodiment of the present invention may be executed on any suitable computing system, with any suitable hardware and/or software.

In one embodiment, an embodiment of the present invention is implemented as a software module 22 which interacts with a database 32, arranged to be executable on the computing system 10.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a method of displaying, for every system performance characteristic selected for display or analysis, a list of other highly-correlated system characteristics. In one embodiment of a method in accordance with the present invention, the method comprises the steps of:

1. at every sampling time, the values of all characteristics are collected
2. the correlation coefficient (using a Pearson methodology described hereinafter) between each two characteristics is computed
3. when a characteristic is selected by the system administrator (for display/analysis), the selected characteristic and a list of characteristics having the highest correlation coefficient with regard to the selected characteristic are displayed. The correlation coefficient is a numerical indicator (normalised to a value between 0 and 1) which describes the influence two characteristics have on one another. For example, a correlation coefficient of 0.9 indicates that the two characteristics are highly dependent on each other, whereas a correlation coefficient of 0.1 indicates that the two characteristics have little influence on each other.

The aforementioned list of highly correlated characteristics provides the system administrator with a basis for selecting and more closely examining other performance characteristics which may be of interest.

8 6-9 1/30/06

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 7, lines 4-6, change the paragraph to read as follows:

In one embodiment, the present invention is implemented as a software module [[22]] 30 which may reside ~~arranged to be executable~~ on the computing system 10[[.]], in conjunction with other software modules 32.